

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TEL AV 08113 280750Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----062180 280802Z /13

O 280710Z JUN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3857  
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM  
USUN NEW YORK 5789

S E C R E T TEL AVIV 8113

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PBOR MARR PINT LE IS  
SUBJECT: SOUTH LEBANON

REF: (A) BEIRUT 3511, (B) BEIRUT 3533, (C) BEIRUT 3504

1. WE HAVE NOW REFLECTED ON POINTS LEBANESE LEADERS HAVE MADE IN RECENT CONVERSATIONS WITH AMB. PARKER IN AN EFFORT TO DETERMINE WHAT CONTRIBUTION THE U.S. CAN MAKE IN HELPING THEM SOLVE THEIR PROBLEMS. THE DESIRE OF SARKIS AND BOUTROS TO LEAP OVER THE COMPLEXITY OF THE ENCLAVES ISSUE IS UNDERSTANDABLE. IF THE U.S. COULD PERSUADE ISRAEL TO CONTROL THE CHRISTIAN MILITIAS IN ORDER FOR THE LEBANESE ARMY TO DEPLOY TO THE SOUTH, THIS WOULD CERTAINLY RELIEVE LEBANESE LEADERS OF ONE OF THEIR CONCERNS. HOWEVER, FURTHER U.S. PRESSURE ON THIS ISSUE IS UNLIKELY TO MAKE THE ISRAELIS DO WHAT THE LEBANESE WOULD LIKE. THE ISRAELIS WILL NOT AGREE TO THE LEBANESE IMPLIED REQUEST THAT CHRISTIAN SECURITY BE PUT IN THE HANDS OF UNIFIL OR WHATEVER LEBANESE FORCES THE  
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 TEL AV 08113 280750Z

GOL CAN MUSTER FOR DUTY TO THE SOUTH. IF UNIFIL COULD STOP THE PALESTINIANS, PERHAPS THE CHRISTIAN BUFFER WOULD NOT BE SEEN AS NECESSARY BY THE ISRAELIS. BUT THAT, AS SEEN FROM HERE, IS FAR FROM AN IMMEDIATE PROSPECT. MOREOVER, THE GOI DOUBTS THAT THE LEBANESE ARE SERIOUS ABOUT MOVING TROOPS SOUTH IN THE NEAR FUTURE. IF THE LEBANESE WANT TO PROVE OTHERWISE, THEY ARE GOING TO HAVE TO CONVINCE THE ISRAELIS

IN DIRECT TALKS. NO REAL MOVEMENT IS LIKELY ON THE MILITIA, ARMY DEPLOYMENT OR HADDAD ISSUES UNLESS THE TWO DISCUSS THE ISSUES AND WORK OUT MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE ARRANGEMENTS.

2. AS AMB. PARKER HAS TOLD THE LEBANESE, WE HAVE HIT THE ISRAELIS HARD ON THE CHRISTIAN MILITIAS. BUT WE ARE PROBABLY NEVER GOING TO GET AN UNABIGUOUS ANSWER TO THE QUESTION RAISED BY BOUTROS IN REF C -- WILL THE ISRAELIS RESTRAIN THE CHRISTIAN MILITIAS? WE WILL BE TOLD THAT THE GOI IS DOING WHAT IT CAN TO BE "HELPFUL." ISRAELIS WILL MAKE THE POINT THAT BECAUSE OF PALESTINIAN INFILTRATION THROUGH UNIFIL LINES, THE CHRISTIANS ARE SIMPLY TAKING STEPS TO PROTECT THEMSELVES.

3. REGARDING BOUTROS'S QUESTION AS TO WHETHER ISRAELIS WILL ACCEPT ENTRY OF LEBANESE TROOPS WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT THEY ARE LIKELY TO TAKE "EFFECTIVE ACTION " AGAINST MILITIAS, HE SHOULD BE UNDER NO MISUNDERSTANDING ISRAELIS WILL AGREE, UNDER CURRENT CIRCUMSTANCES, EITHER TO DISARM THE MILITIAS OR ABANDON THEIR COMMITMENT TO THE CHRISTIANS AND SHIAS IN THE ENCLAVES. THIS IS ALL THE MORE SO IF THE GOL INTENDS, AS HOSS SAID, TO BRING PRIMARLY MUSLIM UNITS INTO THE SOUTH. AS FOR BOUTROS' THIRD QUESTION -- ISRAELI CONCERNS ON THE ENTRY OF LEBANESE TROOPS INTO THE SOUTH, IT IS OUR IMPRESSION THEY HAVE SOME OF THE SAME WORRIES WE DO; THAT IS, ONCE DEPLOYED IN THE SOUTH THE LEBANESE ARMY  
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 TEL AV 08113 280750Z

WILL HAVE NO STOMACH FOR CONTROLLING EITHER THE PALESTINIANS OR THE CHRISTIANS AND THEIR PRESENCE WILL STIMULATE RATHER THAN REDUCE FURTHER VIOLENCE IN THE AREA.

4. I WILL, NONETHELESS, POSE THE THREE QUESTIONS TO WEIZMAN WHEN I SEE HIM JUNE 28, ALTHOUGH I AM NOT CONVINCED IT IS IN OUR INTEREST TO BECOME A REGULAR MAILMAN. RATHER THAN ATTRIBUTE THE QUESTIONS TO BOUTROS, I WILL PRESENT THEM AS MY OWN. WHEN THIS EXERCISE IS COMPLETED, MY GUESS IS THAT BOUTROS WILL LEARN NOTHING THAT HE DOES NOT ALREADY KNOW IN HIS HEART OF HEARTS. HE MAY NOT LIKE THE ANSWERS. BUT THERE IT IS.

5. THE U.S. CANNOT FORCE THE ISRAELIS TO GO AGAINST THEIR PERCEIVED INTERESTS, AND THEIR COMMITMENT TO THE ABILITY OF THE CHRISTIANS AND SHIAS TO DEFEND THEMSELVES AND TO THE GOOD FENCE IS AT THE BEDROCK HERE. UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES AND UNTIL THEY CAN BE SURE OF ALTERNATIVES WHICH PROTECT ISRAELI SECURITY, THERE IS NOT MUCH GIVE IN THEIR POSITION. SO FOR THE TIME BEING, THINGS WILL HAVE TO BE WORKED OUT ON THE GROUND IN SOUTH LEBANON ONE DAY AT A TIME.

6. LOOKING TOWARD THE FUTURE, I INTEND TO URGE WEIZMAN  
TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE EXISTING ILMAC FRAMEWORK  
TO EXPLORE ARRANGEMENTS FOR ADDRESSING LEBANESE AND ISRAELI  
DIFFERENCES IN THE SOUTH. DIRECT TALKS PROVIDE THE TWO  
SIDES WITH THE BEST MEANS FOR UNDERSTANDING ONE ANOTHER.  
THAT SAID, I WOULD NOT BET THE BANK THAT UNDERSTANDING IN  
THIS CASE WILL LEAD TO AGREEMENT.  
LEWIS

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLITICAL SITUATION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 28 jun 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978TELAV08113  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780267-0273  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** TEL AVIV  
**Handling Restrictions:**  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1978/newtext/t19780610/aaaaaiit.tel  
**Line Count:** 124  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** fb05077c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION SS  
**Original Classification:** SECRET  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** SECRET  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Reference:** 78 BEIRUT 3511, 78 BEIRUT 3533, 78 BEIRUT 3504  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 09 jun 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2132049  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** SOUTH LEBANON  
**TAGS:** PBOR, MARR, PINT, LE, IS  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/fb05077c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014